

aa₄ and aa₅ are selected from the group consisting of lysine, arginine, and histidine; and

one of aa₆ and aa₇ is selected from the group consisting of phenylalanine, tryptophan and tyrosine, such that when aa₆ is phenylalanine aa₇ is selected from the group consisting of lysine, arginine and histidine, when aa₆ is tryptophan aa₇ is lysine, and when aa₇ is phenylalanine aa₆ is leucine; and derivatives thereof that retain antimicrobial activity.

68. (New) The antimicrobial peptide according to claim 67, wherein aa₄ and aa₅ are selected from the group consisting of lysine and arginine.

69. (New) The antimicrobial peptide according to claim 67 comprising the amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO:3.

70. (New) The antimicrobial peptide according to claim 67 comprising the amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO:4.

71. (New) The antimicrobial peptide according to claim 67 comprising the amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO:5.

72. (New) The antimicrobial peptide according to claim 67 comprising the amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO:6.

73. (New) The antimicrobial peptide according to claim 67 comprising the amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO:7.

74. (New) The antimicrobial peptide according to claim 67 comprising the amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO:8.

75. (New) The antimicrobial peptide according to claim 67 comprising the amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO:9.